Increase of Air Fare

370. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to give subsidy to long distance passengers who are affected by the steep increase in the fares; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephones in Rural Areas

371. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not succeded in achieving the target of connecting the rural areas with telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount spent on setting up telephone exchanges in rural areas during the last two years, circle-wise;

(d) the progress made during the above period, state-wise;

(e) the time by which telecommunication system is likely to be provided in all the villages of the country, State-wise;

(f) whether priority has been given to backward States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There has been a shortfall in provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in Rural Areas.

(b) The shortfall is mainly due to delay in supply of equipment and accessories by the supplier.

(c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The information regarding the progress made is given in enclosed Statement.

(e) All the villages of the country are planned to be provided with VPTs during IXth Plan.

(f) and (g). All villages are to be covered. There is no such policy to give priority.

STATEMENT

Circle-wise details of achievements of Rural Telephone connections during 1994-95 and 1995-96

S.No.	Circle	1994-95 Total Gross Lines	1995-96 Total Gross Lines
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23932	46240
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	505	1456
3.	Assam	9168	7872
4.	Bihar	11424	14400
5.	Gujarat	52224	20708
6.	Haryana	19304	11368
7.	Himachal Pradesh	18684	37040
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	4580	4984
9.	Karnataka	61760	28456
10.	Kerala	14202	51550
11.	Madhya Pradesh	63704	20584
12.	Maharashtra	52610	71072
13.	North-East	6480	10256
14.	Orissa	5272	7432
15.	Punjab	23224	15576
16.	Rajasthan	59568	20308
17.	Tamilnadu	56571	55030
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	24500	18120
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	0	20142
20.	West Bengal	27728	31210
	Total	535440	493804

Inclusion of Ayodhya in the Important Tourist Places

372. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh has been included in the list of important tourist places;

(b) if so, the arrangements made for the beautification of Ayodhya and the details regarding development works; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). Identification of Tourist Spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Department of Tourism, however provides funds for specific projects on the basis of their merits, inter-se priority and availability of funds. During 1991-92, the Department of